

**Subject:** Newsletter The Beacon #45

**Date:** Friday, 22 March 2024 at 5:52:54 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

**From:** The Lighthouse Toowoomba

**To:** Emma Mactaggart

With a bounce in our  
step...



### Welcome to Week 9 for 2024 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba

Sometimes we look across at each other in our office and wonder where on earth the days go, and then we realise we are constantly plotting and planning more adventures for the children in our community and the Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition is fast approached, promising wonderful school holiday activities as the temperature dips and the camping trips are abandoned in lieu of a gallery experience.

Once again, we suggest you make a cuppa, find a quiet spot to simply read,

and enjoy 'The Beacon' as we share another action packed fortnight and plans for the next one, including an update on the remarkable month that has been Empowering Women!

Below: Alex Stalling from Tinker. Alex facilitated the most wonderful life-drawing class with dancer Katy Woods in The Write Gallery as shown in the opening photo. Keep your eyes peeled for [any and all workshops Alex offers](#) - they are fabulous!



### **International Read to Me Day! March 19**

The Lighthouse Toowoomba was happily involved with International Read to Me Day this year. Remember we hosted Lee Fullarton with Book Links in the Write Gallery recently? She gifted an uplifting image to the campaign, and it was so much fun to see it shared around the globe; from Bahrain to Panama; from Greece to the USA, Tanzania to Toowoomba; and many countries in between... For some really engaging events, have a look at your socials for [#internationalreadtomeday](#)



Above: Director Carmen Munoz invited parents in each day to read at Astrids Preschool, Panama

Below: Yolanda Utami Nilasari, Program Development and Donor Relation Coordinator, with students at [Yayasan Usaha Mulia \(YUM\)](#).



Above: Lameck Bagumya, Founder of

Bright Hope Reading Initiative at Grace School, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Below: Merinda Thompson at Darling Heights State School, Toowoomba, shared a reading of her cousin Breanna Humes book *I Want to Be A Superhero*.



## CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE

YOU ADD THE COLOUR!

The Write Gallery  
2-30 April 2024  
Tues - Sat 10am to 3pm



This event is proudly supported by the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program through the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs



Whilst we are travelling the globe, and as we approach the end of term and look ahead to the Easter holidays (and the time of year when chocolate is accepted as a breakfast food) we are SO EXCITED to announce the Cultural Kaleidoscope exhibition activities occurring across the holiday period.

The event is proudly supported by the Toowoomba Regional Council and The



Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program through the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

From Tuesday to Saturday in the first week of the holidays (2-6 April), Authors Megan Carige, Irena Kobald, and Lee FullARTon will be in the Write Gallery as Authors-in-Residence!

There will be activities set up at stations around the gallery themed around each author and their book and there will be hourly readings by the authors of their very own works!

The fabulous books featured in the Cultural Kaleidoscope are Megan Carige's *Koli*, Irena Kobald's *Two Blankets*, Zewlan Moore's *Nothing Alike*, Lee FullARTon's *Mr Chipper and the Woodblock of Bagru*, Sandhya Parappukkran's *The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name* and *Amma's Sari* and also the Child Writes authored books *Wiimali* and *Akilah's Necklace*.

**The Write Gallery** will be open from **10am – 3pm** and *Wednesday through to Saturday 3-6 April*, the Authors-in-Residence program is as follows:

- **Wednesday 3 April** – Lee FullARTon's showcasing her book *Mr Chipper and the Woodblock of Bagru*, *plus reading on the hour: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm*
- **Thursday 4 April and Friday 5 April** – Irena Kobald's showcasing her book *Two Blankets*, *plus reading on the*

hour: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm

· **Saturday 6 April** – Megan Carige showcasing her book *Koli*, plus reading on the hour: 11am, 12noon, 1pm, and 2pm

There will also be a thought-provoking Living Library where Community Leader's will be available for a wonderfully interactive session for all those 'you can't ask that!' questions. This promises to be a true kaleidoscope into multicultural ways of thinking and living!

In the second week of the holidays on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April** we will be holding a special event to acknowledge the full celebration of cultural Kaleidoscope - *A celebratory afternoon tea!* Members from across the community will gather to applaud the diversity of the region we live in, and there will be a special live reading of Irena's book *Two Blankets*, a heart-warming tale of a child adapting to cultural displacement through kindness and friendship.

Register your attendance for *The Celebratory Afternoon Tea* [here](#).



## Empowering Women!

Visual Conversations is a photography exhibition highlighting the courage, strength, and determination of women in our local community, with the goal of sharing stories of resilience and inspiring other women to find their inner voice.

Everyone has a story to tell, and it is the tapestry of these stories that make up our communities. Our stories have the power to transform our thinking and bring people of all walks of life together.

The portraits are each supported with the artist's reflection - an insight into the emotional and mental processes experienced when photographing such raw and profound emotion.

**Kat Lynn's EMPOWERING WOMEN is in The Write Gallery for one more week, finishing on Thursday 28 March at 3pm.**

Below: Our favourite QLD Chief Entrepreneur, Julia Spicer, was one of many visitors to the exhibition this week.



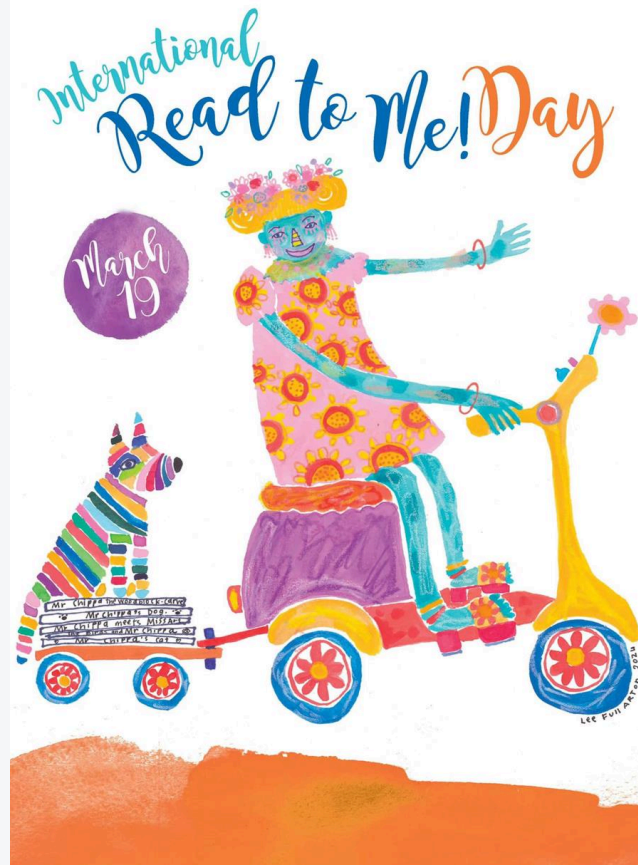


## Twinkles Book Club...

be a reader! need a reader?  
give a book!

Thanks to the wonderfully generous community answering our call-out for donations via the Facebook group #tlcfortrc, we have been able to press on and bundle up books for another 12 classes at Darling Heights State School. On the 19 March, as well as recording wonderful 'live' reading sessions, we dropped off over 1000 books which will be in homes before the easter bunny saunters along! The awesome coordinator at Darling Heights Community Hub, Ricky Adams is always so open to us disrupting the status quo if it means getting books into the hands of children who need them! (Truly, there was barely a table free in the staff room! Thank you for your patience teachers! And thank you to the DHSS ground staff who found trolleys to get the books from our car boots!)





Thank you again Lee Fullarton for this fabulous image created for International Read to Me Day! We know you are smiling as much as we were looking at this colourful, creative and joyful image which celebrates the magic of reading together! Oh the adventures we have when we read...

## Who DID you read to on 19 March?

When the research unequivocally demonstrates that it is important to read to our children every day, then it is easy, we should do it, just like providing clothing, food, and shelter...

And yet, we know the barriers to being so diligent are very real! Parents and carers can be 1. exhausted at the end

of the day; 2. not have books available at home; 3. books they do have are not in language; 4. no-one has ever shown the parent how to read to a child; 5. parents may just not be comfortable reading.

What are our recommended 'work-arounds' then?

1. read in the morning. Grabbing an opportunity to read for even just 5 minutes is better than missing out, so encourage your children to keep track of your 'streak'
2. pop in and see us (or ask your school to contact us and arrange a book bundle to be dropped off!) and pick up a bundle of books from our One-Way Library. Preloved books are donated in the understanding we are doing all we can to find new homes for them!
3. talking and describing the pictures in a book is just the same as actually reading the words, because it is all about extending a child's vocabulary, and the pictures provide the prompts for you!
4. check out social media - tiktok or instagram - and find television shows like Play School, or teachers who are passionate about reading, and watch how they read to children. The trick is to be upbeat and happy to be reading. It doesn't matter if you stumble over words, that just makes you human!
5. find a library, or a playgroup that has volunteers who attend and read. We send out volunteers to

schools and to play groups and offer a 'book club' session for toddlers on Fridays, complimenting the Toowoomba Libraries program.



## Podcast 'Our World' LAUNCH

**Friday 31 May at 5pm to 6pm...**

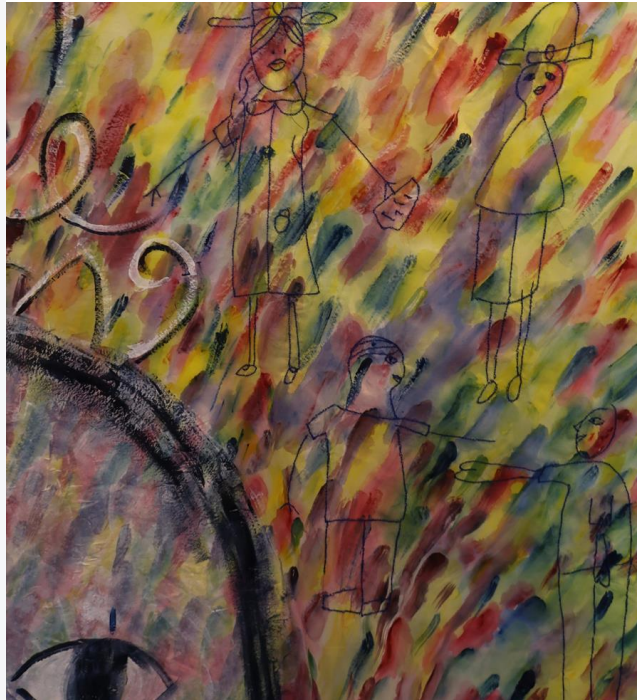
Thanks to the remarkable gift from David Iliffe of the most comprehensive workshops with our two young podcast stars, Rawah and Samah, an 8-part podcast will soon be released. The Centenary Heights State High School students they share their journey as refugees with a disability. 'Inspirational' can be an overused word, but when you gain an insight into how incredibly

liberating the NDIS is for people with disabilities, there is much to learn.

If you would like to attend, please email [hello@thelighthousewoomba.org](mailto:hello@thelighthousewoomba.org)

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**Workshops galore!**



## **Made TO Move**

**Workshop 20th April 10 am – 2pm**

“Made to Move” is an exciting new idea for Toowoomba region’s aspiring young visual artists working with artist and art teacher, Nadine Reynolds.

Nadine Reynolds is an Art Teacher and artist. Her current work “Affect/Effect” exhibition is currently at Toowoomba Regional Council’s Rosalie Gallery in Goombungee (March 6th – 28th). Her responsive, kinetic work features contemporary stitching embedded in traditional painting and is about the

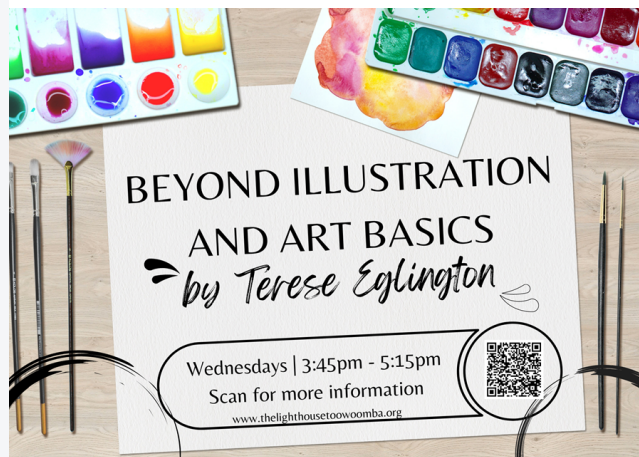


effect we have on each other.

The Workshop will be held At “The Write Gallery” The Lighthouse Toowoomba on 20 April between 10am-2pm.

Cost \$25 (Scholarships available for financial hardship. No questions asked.)

20 Junior artists will have the opportunity to work with Nadine to create work for the “Made to Move” exhibition in the Write gallery at The Lighthouse in November This year. [Apply here today.](#)



Terese is back in Term 2. [Places are limited](#), so dive in, head-first. To quote one of the students last term, 'I wish I could do art everyday' (We agree with this wish completely!)

Do you have a child in your orbit aged between 9 and 13 who may be interested in illustrations?

Art skills and illustration techniques designed to build confidence in drawing and designing characters for illustrations in story books, advertising

and many facets of our daily lives. With step-by-step guidance and exploration of drawing techniques, illustration and character design will be so much easier and enjoyable.

**Workshops start on Wednesday 17 April 3:45-5:15pm and run for 7 weeks until Wednesday 29 May 2024.**



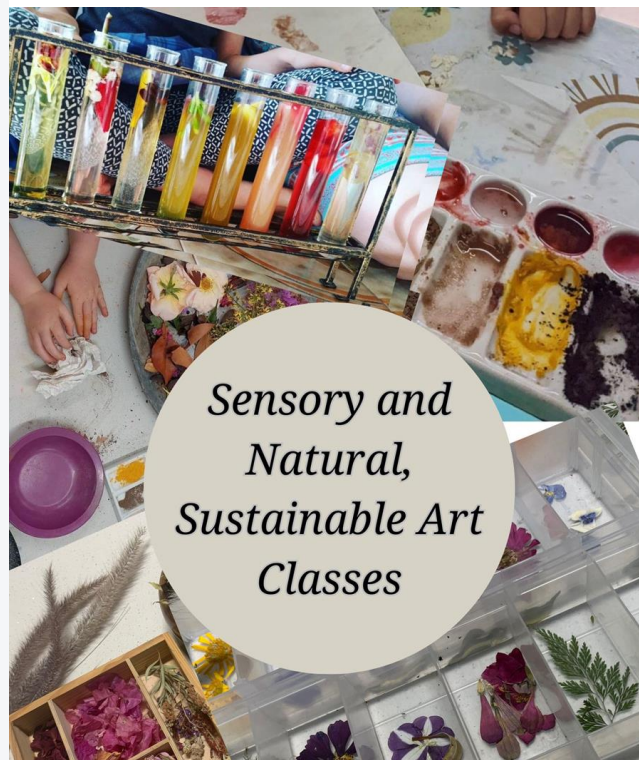
**Science + Sorcery Club + Access to Mentoring.**

For aspiring writers aged 13-17. Create unique characters and wildly imaginative settings to make your story ideas come alive, particularly for those interested in science fiction and fantasy. Learn how to create and evolve your unique characters and wildly imaginative settings to make

your story ideas come alive, particularly for those interested in science fiction and fantasy. These genres give us a chance to imagine stories, alternatives, speculate on the impossible, or simply ask: what if? Untangle your ideas to create great backdrops for stories, homes for heroes and villains, or exciting settings for role playing games, like Dungeons & Dragons.

All members of the 'Science & Sorcery' Writers Club are welcome to access Tim's mentoring sessions FREE. These sessions are held on the same day as Club, 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Students are welcome to use a hot desk to write more after the mentoring session and then attend Club 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

**'Science + Sorcery' Writers Club starts on Thursday 25 April, 5:00 to 6:30pm, for 8 weeks (until Thursday 13th June)**





Bookings can be made by calling Leah  
0415 968 579 All classes are \$20

- 10:00am sensory play - 40min
- 11:30am sensory play - 40min
- 1:00pm Nature /sustainable Art Class - 1hr
- 2:00pm Nature/sustainable Art Class - 1hr
- 3:30pm Nature/sustainable Art Class - 1hr



## **A wrap on HELLO Club for Term 1**

Another fabulous snap from the antics of Monday afternoon Hello Club. It has been a great first term in 2024 and we are so grateful to our amazing volunteers Darcy Meagher and Sue Reynolds who brought so much knowledge and energy to the inspired program focusing on education and



literacy.

We are excited to be bringing back 'the club' in **Term 2 for 8 weeks from Monday 22 April until Monday 10 June from 3:30 - 5pm.**

Bookings are essential as there are only three places left!



## **Suzanne Leal and the TAS kids**

Award winning children's and adult author Suzanne Leal had a wonderful session with the TAS kids in the gallery on Friday 15 March. Suzanne's debut children book *Running with Ivan* is a tale based in the time of World War Two and explores the adventure between Leo and the Czech boy he befriends Ivan. The students from TAS learnt about the writing process with Suzanne.

And of course we had to have Suzanne add her signature to the 'Famous People' chart in our writers centre. Thank you to Word Fest for sharing Suzanne.



Actually, whilst we are talking about **Word Fest** - congratulations Lyndall for an wonderful evening event on the same day! Anna Battle opened with a glorious insight into her Shiny Happy Art (and she did remember to remind all in attendance she will be in The Write Gallery 1-30 September for a very colourful spring display) Then Michael Burge and Suzanne introduced each other and talked about their books, the writing process, and experiences from a writers perspective. (Emma said she could have listened to their in-conversation all night!) And congratulations Antonio Hilderbrand

with the launch of her latest book of poetry.

Check out the Word Fest website for more fabulous events coming up in June.



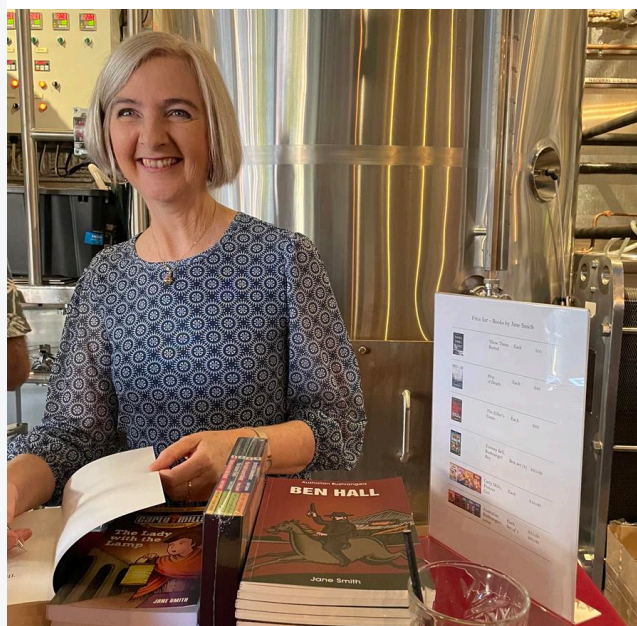
Oh this newsletter is writing itself - now whilst we are talking of upcoming events, the Sydney Writers Festival 'Live and Local' with The Empire and The Lighthouse Toowoomba is soon.

Don't dally, reach for your diary now and pop in that you are insanely busy **23-26 May** because you won't want to miss, for example, Tara East as she catches up with Jane Smith about her latest book *Three Times Buried*, but trust us when we say the full line-up is sensational.) The Sydney Writers Festival beams in live events directly to The Empire, so you can sit in on the sessions 'live and local', and we are complimenting their program with our local authors live! The program will be released next week, and will be on The Empire's website and The Lighthouse Toowoomba's website!

It would be one of our favourite and best examples of the strength to be gained in a community with collaborations, and this year we are all feeling even more excited because of grant from the Toowoomba Regional Council means we can actually pay the appearance fees AND the twist is the writers are all gifting us an hour for a workshop or a school visit for FREE as a thank you to The Lighthouse for organising this event, acknowledging the support of TRC. It's definitely win, win, win, and did we mention you definitely 'win' because the Live + Local is FREE.

Teachers - please email [hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org](mailto:hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org) if you want a free author visit! We have three schools already indicating their interest, and allocation will be on a 'first-in-first-served' basis.

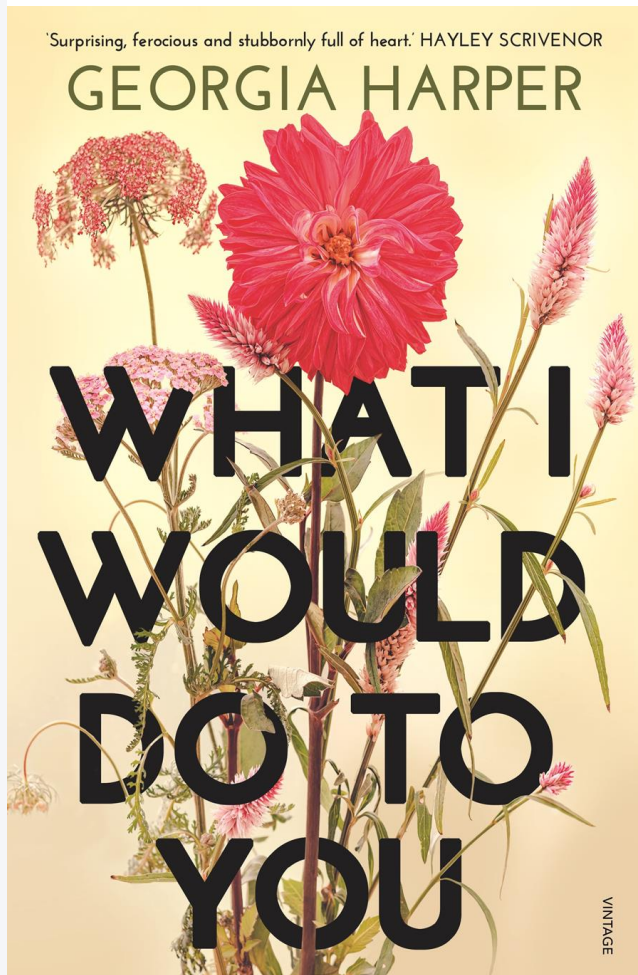
Below: Jane Smith at her recent book launch at The Brewhouse!



Thank you Jane for the donation of a



bundle of books about empowered women. The school group visiting today LOVED that they left with a book!



Counting down the days to Georgia Harper's book launch on **Saturday 20 April** 6:00pm here in The Write Gallery ... limited places available by invite

only. Please send invite EOIs  
to [georgiaharperbooks@gmail.com](mailto:georgiaharperbooks@gmail.com)



## Twinkle, twinkle are you a star?

Our TWINKLES program is bound to get you feeling *clucky* (little people and picture books...🥰) so if you are looking for a wonderful opportunity to get involved we are always on the lookout for anybody who can:

- be a reader
- bring a reader
- give a book

Contact us at  
[hello@thelighthouseoowooba.org.au](mailto:hello@thelighthouseoowooba.org.au)





The Write Gallery - The Lighthouse Toowoomba  
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba CBD

3 - 23 May 2024

exhibitions : workshops : functions : exhibitions : workshops : functions : exhibitions : workshops : functions



Australian Library and Information Association

SCHOLASTIC

LIANZA

## NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME



AURA PARKER

# BOWERBIRD BLUES

SAVE THE DATE!

22 May 2024 • 12pm (AEST)

[www.alia.org.au/nss](http://www.alia.org.au/nss) #LibraryStorytime

Gosh... there's even a cheeky peek at something very wonderful for September... Shiny Happy Ideas Show... Curious?



Coming this Spring!

Petals! February is nearly done and at this rate Carnival will be upon us before we know it.

We are beyond excited for the exhibition we have locked in at The Write Gallery as part of the beloved Carnival! Local artist Anna Battle is bringing us her **absolutely glorious "The Shiny Happy Ideas Show"**

This vibrant and immersive art exhibition will be hosted in our very own The Write Gallery and will be a key stop on the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers program. This month-long event showcases the colourful and uplifting works of local artist Anna Battle. Anna's artwork embodies a philosophy of embracing life's richness and finding joy in everyday moments. Through her bold use of colours, floral motifs, and expressive style, Anna invites viewers to explore themes of happiness, positivity, and mindfulness.

The exhibition offers a diverse range of art pieces, including paintings, sketches, and mixed-media works, all reflecting Anna's unique vision of a brighter and more vibrant world. Visitors to "The Shiny Happy Ideas Show" will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Anna's artistic universe, experiencing the transformative power of art to uplift spirits and inspire creativity.

We'll be singing from the rafters about this in coming edition of the Beacon,



but put a big fat flower around  
September in your diary because  
this even is guaranteed to put a  
SPRING in your step!

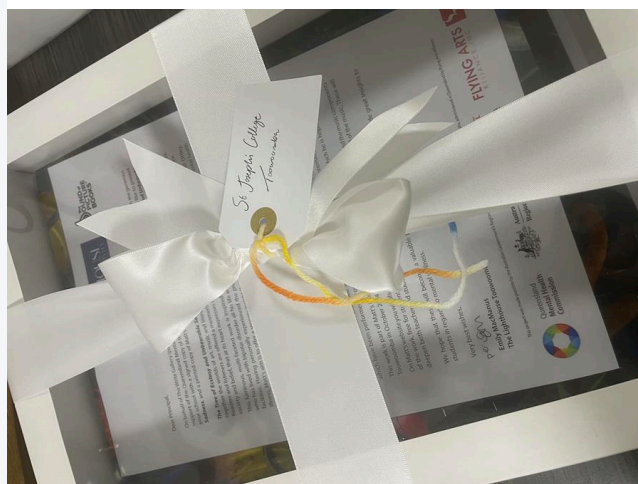


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## Help please!

We received a grant from the QLD Health Commission during Matt Ottley's exhibition, and we have bundled books and teacher resources to give to libraries in all the secondary schools in the region. Some have found their way to the schools, and the following are still to be delivered to the Principals.

If you are driving past and have two minutes, and are close to St Saviours, Wilsonton HS, TGS, St Ursulas, Concordia, Glennie, Oakey State High, Harristown, St Josephs, Highlands, or Highfields SSC, and could pick up a box and take it to the school, we would do a little dance of joy!





## One very last thing...

Did you know the The Child Writes Fund supports The Lighthouse! As a registered charity, and being included on the Register of Cultural Organisations, a tax deductible receipt for donations can be issued, and the focus then can be doing all we can to ensure 'every child in Australia reads, writes, and creates with confidence'.



Go the Bombers! We are so thrilled to have the support of this club, with their sign beaming to you from our carpark.

If you are keen to advertise, which means supporting us because the sign is successful AND you support a local supporting team directly with your financial contribution, contact Kevin

0458 330 708 and organise your advertisement today.



The Lighthouse Toowoomba  
126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, 4350

We acknowledge the First Nations storytellers of the land on which we work and tell our stories. We respect the ongoing relationships with water, land, and story by the people of this place, their elders, their ancestors, and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter please use the button below or email us at [hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org](mailto:hello@thelighthousetoowoomba.org)

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